Central Connecticut State University

Elihu Burritt Library Newsletter

CCSU Seniors Win 2009 Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award

Central Connecticut State University honored some of its finest students at the Undergraduate Research Creativity and Achievement Day on April 3, 2009. Two of those students were also winners of the Elihu Burritt Library Undergraduate Research Award.

Matthew Bannon, a senior and History/Secondary Education major, won the research award for his paper, "Delicate as Silk: Labor/Management Relations in the Cheney Silk Mills of South Manchester, Connecticut, 1918 - 1934." This paper examines the relationship between labor and management in the Cheney Brothers Silk Mills in the early 20th century. It looks at the nature of the Cheney workforce, social control methods used by the company and ways that the workforce began to develop their own voice over time.

Matthew said that the research for this paper was more in-depth

Senior Matthew Bannon

and complex than any research he had done before. "The library services and resources that benefited me the most were Interlibrary Loan, the CONSULS online catalog, and databases such as America: History and Life, Hartford Courant Historical, and JSTOR," said Matthew. "The research was tedious, time-consuming, and at times overwhelming, but I think the final product was worth the effort. It was a great learning experience."

(L-R) Librarian Susan Slaga and Senior Sharon Kenniston

The other library award research winner was Sharon E. Kenniston, a senior and Elementary Education/English major, for her thesis, "Unspeakable Things Unspoken: Toni Morrison, Literature Censorship and the Modern American Classroom." The research for this thesis focuses on the process of literature censorship in the American high school classroom and closely examines the role of Toni Morrison's controversial novels, *Beloved* and *The Bluest Eye* in the Language Arts curriculum.

Like/Don't Like Wikipedia? What About This?
by Nick Tomaiuolo

You may be, as is University of Brighton professor Tara Brabazon, an adamant disdainer of the "University of Google" (http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/the_web/article3182091.ece). Perhaps you've formally banned your students from using Web 2.0 sites as Brown University's Neil Waters has ("Why you can't cite Wikipedia in my class." *Communications of the ACM*). Yet you surely acknowledge the frequent use of the online encyclopedia. Subscribers to the "Got lemons? Make lemonade" maxim can count themselves among many others who urge faculty to use Wikipedia as a point of departure for inculcating information evaluation skills to their students. The late Roy Rosenzweig, American historian at George Mason University, went one bet-

In this issue:

Telling Tales: An Interview with Emily Chasse
by Kathy Steadman

Emily Chasse, Reference Librarian and Instructor of the storytelling course at CCSU, has authored the new Book/DVD package, Telling Tales: A Guidebook, coming out this summer from Neal-Schuman Publishers.

Emily's background in storytelling began early in life as she grew up in a family of storytellers and has been telling stories her whole life as part of her family's tradition. Through stories, Emily learned about her family. Emily remembers her grandmother as a strong independent woman who told many stories, such as when her mother drove a car into a ditch or how many of her relatives lost a lot of money during the Great Depression.

What inspired you to write your book?

I wrote this book to help students in my class and as a guide to anyone wishing to learn how to tell stories. Previous storytelling books for my class often went out of print, and I felt they did not contain all the topics I wanted to cover in my class.

What did you learn from writing your book? Did you face any challenges?

It was a challenge to take course lectures and translate them to fit into a book. I expanded my notes for each lecture and, in doing so, expanded my knowledge. Since I tell so many stories to accompany my lectures, I needed to obtain copyright permission for most of the tales I wanted to include. Some of the stories are in the public domain, but many of them have been published in copyrighted versions.

I also needed to work with various editors. First, I worked with a Development Editor who helped me rewrite and revise my chapters. Next, I worked with a Production Editor who dealt with the pagination, index, and headings. Finally, there was a Copyeditor who checked my bibliography and citations. After working with all the editors, the book was typeset and printed.

The DVD was finished in 2008. Chad Valk, Digital Media Production Coordinator from the CCSU Media Technology Department, produced and edited the DVD. Four of my storytelling colleagues contributed DVD versions of their stories.
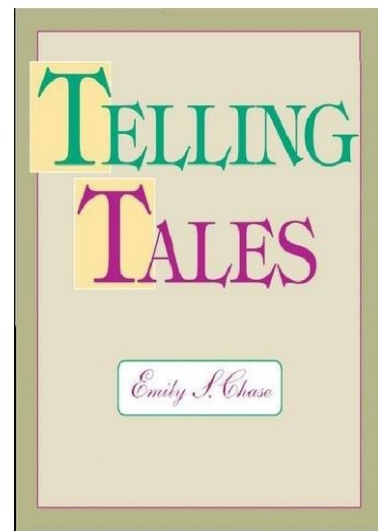
What influenced you to select certain stories for your book and DVD?

The Book/DVD encourages novice tellers to learn about story structure so they are not tempted to memorize the stories. I chose stories that would help people learn the basics of storytelling. I really wanted to include stories from different cultures. I think it is important to learn about other cultures and it is amazing what you can learn about people's cultures from their stories. I especially enjoy telling Chinese stories and included several on the DVD.

The audience for the book is anyone interested in telling stories from novice to avid storyteller.

Do you have any advice for the new storyteller?

Listen and watch as many storytelling performances as you can, read folk and fairy tales, watch/listen to stories on CD, video, or DVD.

Polish Collection Receives Gifts
by Ewa Wolynska

M. Curie bust donated by Mr. Alexander Koproski

In November 2008, the Elihu Burritt Library received a donation of three marble sculptures. The busts of three Polish national heroes Frédéric Chopin, Marie Curie, and 19th century poet Adam Mickiewicz are works of Polish artist Jan Stepkowski and were donated by Mr. Alexander Koproski, a real estate businessman from Stamford, Connecticut.

Mr. Koproski, whose grandparents emigrated from Poland to America in 1895, has been active in Polish American communities for decades. He and his wife Patricia were a driving force behind the creation of the National Polish Center in Washington, D.C. They also established the Koproski Family Foundation to promote and preserve Polish culture. Mr. Koproski is a member of the CCSU Polish Studies Advisory Committee and a long-time supporter of the Polish Studies Program. In 2000, the Koproski family set up an endowment for regular lectures in Polish Business and Economics. Over the years, Mr. Koproski also do-

nated his time and was instrumental in facilitating a large donation of books and periodicals to Elihu Burritt Library's Polish Heritage Collection. Besides his personal papers collection, he also brought other great archival collections to the Connecticut Polish American Archives at CCSU and is constantly looking for opportunities to enrich our Polish American holdings.

Assessing Usability on a Budget:
Computers in Libraries Conference 2009
by Edward Iglesias

The cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C. were a wonderful backdrop to the Computers in Libraries Conference where Debbie Herman and I presented on a session on affordable options for assessing web usability. Despite being the last session, the room was packed with about 70 librarians, cybrarians, information professionals, bloggers and tweeters. Among the topics covered were new forms of hardware technology, such as eye tracking headgear used to record eye movement (see figure below). Eye tracking, click tracking and screen capture software can provide insights into users' behavior that assist webmasters in designing intuitive, accessible user interfaces.
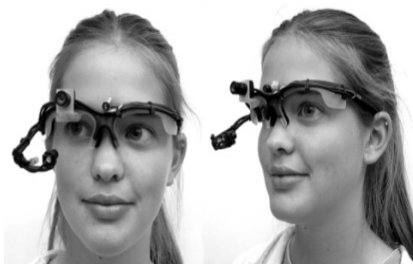

Figure 1- Lightweight, dark-pupil, eyetracking headgear

Debbie focused on software options for tracking and analysis of website usability with a special focus on an inexpensive, but excellent product called Silverback and also Google Analytics.
For those who are interested in what was presented, the slides are available at:
http://www.slideshare.net/hermand/assessing-usability-on-a-budget
Bookmarks for all the products mentioned and general information about usability may be found on Debbie's bookmark page at:
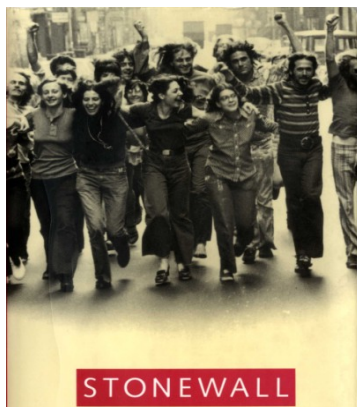http://delicious.com/debbie.herman/cil2009

Since Stonewall:
Forty Years Of Gay And Lesbian Civil Rights
by Frank Gagliardi

This June will mark the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. In the early morning hours of June 28, 1969 members of the New York Police Department raided the Stonewall Inn located on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village. This time, unlike previous raids, the gay community fought back. Rioting broke out and continued for five days ending on July 2nd.

The *New York Times* thought so little of the raid they buried the story on page 33 the following day. Probably no one realized at the time that this event would become the iconic symbol of the gay civil rights movement. This uprising marked the beginning, as the *Advocate* stated, "of a movement to decriminalize, demedicalize, and devillainize us (i.e., gays and lesbians)." The February 27, 2009 issue

Buttons from the Gender Equity/GLBTQ Special Collection

of the *Washington Post* made note that "of the few other sites officially marking the gay rights struggle – Harvey Milk's photo shop in San Francisco, the Stonewall Inn in New York City and Henry Gerber's house in Chicago – only the Stonewall Inn has a place on the National Register of Historic Places."

To mark this anniversary, materials will be on display during the month of June, from Burritt Library's extensive collection of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender books, newsletters, periodicals, ephemera and archives.

Looking for a Few Good "Friends"

The Elihu Burritt Library has served CCSU and the local community for over 160 years. What was once a one-room facility with only a handful of volumes has developed into a multi-faceted resource facility with over half a million volumes and thousands of print and online periodical subscriptions. Library improvements offer new challenges and possibilities supporting traditional print media, as well as quickly changing technology and online resources. Your gift in support of the Library will provide state-of-the-art information resources to enhance the academic curriculum and continue the Library's role as a community resource.

Individuals contributing $50.00 or more will have the option of recommending materials for purchase and having a bookplate inserted in the material, and will also receive a copy of the library newsletter.

Please send your donation to:
CCSU Foundation-Friends of the Library
P.O. Box 612
New, Britain, Connecticut 06050

You can also make your donation online at www.ccsu.edu/give. Please direct any questions to Cindy Cayer, Director of Development & Alumni Affairs, 860-832-1741. Gifts to the CCSU Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible in accordance with IRS guidelines.
Thank for your support of the Elihu Burritt Library.
Francis Gagliardi, Associate Director

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In the past twenty years, they have found their way to banned books lists across the nation. Sharon said that she used the CONSULS online catalog to find many books for her thesis such as *Censorship and Selection: Issues and Answers for Schools* and *Toni Morrison Explained: A Reader's Road Map to the Novels*. "These books helped me to understand where Toni Morrison was coming from and to draw educated conclusions on why she may have chosen to expose the issues that she did," said Sharon.

Sharon also used databases such as JSTOR and The New York Times Historical. "Overall I found my research in the Elihu Burritt Library to be exceptionally helpful in the eventual completion of my undergraduate honors thesis. The access to multiple databases and their plentiful books on the subject of Toni Morrison, her works and censorship led me to a final product that I am proud to call my own," said Sharon.

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ter by not only calling upon his colleagues to use the encyclopedia to teach students better research skills, but by inviting them to get in on the user-generated content zeitgeist by making the existing free resource better.

Although there are grants, books, and peer-reviewed articles that you're working on, not to mention teaching, advising, and class preparation, some editing can quickly be done within Wikipedia that will make it a more authoritative resource. Even minor contributions can be useful. The CCSU Library is named for Elihu Burritt (the "Learned Blacksmith" of New Britain). There is a Wikipedia article covering Burritt; there is an Elihu Burritt Archive in the Special Collections Department at our library. My first foray into editing the online encyclopedia was adding an "External Link" to this archive (see figure below).

You probably gravitate to a dozen subject-oriented websites that could augment an existing Wikipedia article. If not, consider taking whatever topics in which you are interested, and do-

ing some Web searching. When you discover worthy content, add a link to a corresponding Wikipedia article. For example, on a trip to London I visited one of Dr. Samuel Johnson's homes. I later found the museum's site and added the weblink for a specific museum page (one addressing the history of the house) to the "External Links" in Wikipedia's Samuel Johnson article. Be especially careful not to add links to home pages for universities, academic departments, or similar institutions; add links only to specific content-rich pages. External links to digitized primary sources are the most valuable. Wikipedia editors frown on general links and usually interpret them as peripheral or promotional, and they will delete your work. That's not all we can do for Wikipedia (and information seekers in general) without investing a

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great deal of time. I recently received an email from Andy Havens, the Manager of Branding and Marketing Services at OCLC. Havens described appending links to "WorldCat Identities" to existing Wikipedia articles. Here's a concise description of WorldCat Identities in the event you haven't come across them yet.

> *"The idea of WorldCat Identities is simple: create a summary page for every name in WorldCat. Since there are some 85 million records in WorldCat and nearly 20 million names mentioned somewhere, this is a large-scale data mining effort that would have been difficult even a few years ago. We are working with both personal and corporate names, so you can see a page for the Beatles, as well as the individual page for John, Paul, George and Ringo. Just working within WorldCat there is a lot of information that can be associated with people. We show lists of the most common works written by the person and those written about them."*

What does this have to do with Mr. Havens and, moreover, you and I? Havens likes the Beatles and he is also interested in writer Neal Town Stephenson. For both entities, he has gone to Wikipedia, found the existing article entries, and added a link to a corresponding WorldCat Identities page. Wikipedia users at either the Beatles' or Neal Stephenson's articles can click on the "External Link" that says Works by or about Neal Stephenson in libraries (WorldCat) catalog or Works by or about The Beatles in libraries (WorldCat catalog), and then click through to WorldCat Identities pages (see figure on previous page). Neither OCLC, Haven, you, nor I should add links programmatically, however, because Wikipedia considers this spamming and deletes the links. But that's okay! We can add a link or two whenever appropriate, and it won't arouse the ire of a cantankerous Wikipedia editor. To see WorldCat Identities in action, begin at the following URL and type your favorite author into the search form: http://orlabs.oclc.org/identities/.

I've done this to several articles including Elihu Burritt, Paul Theroux, David Byrne, Carrie Fisher, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Jethro Tull (the agriculturalist), Jethro Tull (the musical group), and Stephen Colbert. In a nod to pop culture (and hopefully younger users who often consult Wikipedia), I also added WorldCat Identities to the articles for Taylor Swift, Flo Rida, Stephanie Meyer, and Miley Cyrus. After my revisions, I emailed the instructions for editing an article to include a WorldCat Identity to several people. As a result, the Wikipedia articles for Rebecca West, Hunter S. Thompson, Steve Martin, and William Safire quickly showed an external link to their respective WorldCat Identities. You can see how quickly the idea might catch on. Editing a Wikipedia article to include WorldCat Identities is extremely simple (for instructions, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Worldcat_id). See figure on the previous page for the "External Links" section of the Elihu Burritt article and note the link to the library's archive as well as the link to OCLC's WorldCat Identities page for Burritt.

Wikipedia consistently ranks in the top ten most visited websites. It makes sense to contribute to Wikipedia, because the links we add will point users to substantive information. The online encyclopedia is used frequently; we can be certain that our additions will, sooner or later, be used by somebody.
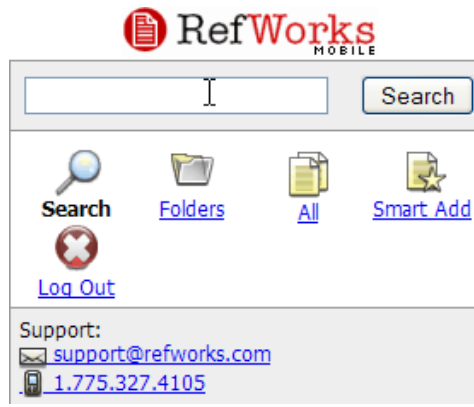

WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

RefWorks Mobile: Try It!

Are you using RefWorks to store and organize your research? Do you have a smart phone, PDA or iPod Touch? If you answered yes to both, then RefWorks Mobile is for you!

RefMobile gives you the ability to view references in a RefWorks account, search within RefWorks, add a note to a reference, as well as search and import new references using an ISBN, DOI (Digital Object Identifier) or author/year using the "smart add" option.

Please send feedback about this Beta release to Debbie Herman (hermand@ccsu.edu).

The RefWorks mobile entry screen

2010 Elihu Burritt Library
Undergraduate Research Award

Elihu Burritt Library is pleased to announce the 2009 Undergraduate Library Research award. This award will recognize excellence in undergraduate research papers/projects and skills and creativity in the application of library services, resources and collections. Two prizes of $350 will be awarded in spring 2010 at the Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day (URCAD). One will be awarded to a senior for his or her thesis and the other will be awarded any undergraduate for a research paper or project.

To be eligible, applicants must:

⇒ **Be enrolled during the spring 2010 semester as a Central Connecticut State University undergraduate at any class level or discipline/major.**
⇒ **Have completed their research paper or project for a credit course during the spring, summer, or fall semesters in 2009.**
⇒ **Agree that the paper or project and application materials will become property of Elihu Burritt Library and may be publicly displayed in the library and/or library website.**

For more information and an application please visit: http://library.ccsu.edu/about/award/. Application packets will be due by February 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Slaga, Reference Librarian, at slagas@ccsu.edu or 860-832-2095.

Central Connecticut State University

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suggestions to:
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